

Washington Whispers

EXCERPTS:

U.S. analysts conclude that the visit of Pope John Paul II to Poland was a net gain for the Communist government despite all the uproar it caused. Explains one expert: "They need the Pope more than he needs them. The one thing that keeps the lid on Poland is the Catholic Church."

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Even as he prepared for his Vienna summit with Soviet President Brezhnev, Jimmy Carter endorsed a secret top-level assessment of the Russian military threat that concluded that the trend is more dangerous than his most pessimistic advisers assumed.

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U.S. intelligence sources in the Middle East are convinced that, despite Saudi Arabia's official announcement that it has cut off economic aid to Egypt, the Saudi royal family is continuing to send funds in large amounts to Cairo.

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Friends of CIA Director Stansfield Turner claim he has gained "job insurance" by raising questions about U.S. ability to monitor the new SALT treaty without electronic-eavesdropping stations in Iran. They feel that, although the White House is angered by Turner's failure to toe the party line, it would be politically disastrous for Carter to fire an intelligence chief for being too independent.